GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1407
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2001
POLICY FOR STREET HAWKERS/ROADSIDE VENDORS/RICKSHAW PULLERS
PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL;RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUKENDER REDDY GUTHA;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE;VUKKALA RAJESWARAMMA

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any policy for street hawkers, roadside vendors and rickshaw pullers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have decided to introduce the policy reforms in the licensing system for hawkers and rickshaw pullers to eliminate the need for licensing by recognising street hawking and cycle rickshaw pulling as legitimate occupations to help reduce poverty and facilitate their integration into the formal economy;

(d) if so, the details of the policy revision in this regard alongwith its objectives; and

(e) the steps taken to ensure its implementation thereof to prevent harassment and exploitation of rickshaw pullers and hawkers at the hands of licensing authority, law enforcers and the police alongwith the self-employment opportunities likely to be generated thereby, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR URBAN DEVELOPMENT & POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA)

(a)to(e): Central Government has recently initiated the process of formulation of a policy for the Hawkers and Street Vendors so asto mitigate their sufferings. In this context, a Task Force on Street Vendors that was constituted under the chairmanship of Minister of State for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, with a view to finalizing broad guidelines on Street Vendors and Hawkersfor regulation of street vending, has already started functioning.

It was decided in the Task Force Meeting to inform all the States to recognize street hawking as a legitimate occupation which helps in reducing poverty and facilitate their integration into the formal economy. The minutes of the Task Force meeting were circulated to all States.

As recommended by the Task Force, all the State Governments were asked to issue necessary instructions especially the licensing and enforcement authorities to suspend any punitive action against the street vendors till such time the policy on street vendors/hawkers is finalized.